U.S. Comments on Draft Texts of the Appendix 3.2.3 (Porcine Semen) of the OIE *International Animal Health Code*

(Submitted to OIE on January 7, 2002)

We have reviewed the draft Appendix 3.2.3 (Porcine Semen) and have the following comments:

Note: Any suggested deletions are shown as "~~strike outs~~" and any new suggested wording is indicated in **bold**:

Article 3.2.3.2 – Conditions applicable to artificial insemination centers:

Last sentence under item 1): word should be spelled as "**passed**" rather than "past".

Article 3.2.3.5 – Conditions applicable to testing of boars:

Point 2 d): Delete the dihydrostreptomycin treatment recommendation. The text should, therefore read as:

d) With regards to leptospirosis, all boars should be treated with ~~25 mg dihydrostretomycin per kg of live body weight injected twice at an interval of 14 days or an equivalent treatment~~ an **effective antimicrobial**.

Rationale for suggested change:

There is not a great deal of information in the literature to support the recommended treatment with dihydrostreptomycin. The treatment strategy seems to be based upon a 1979 paper published in the New Zealand Veterinary Journal entitled "Leptospirosis in pigs: the effectiveness of streptomycin in stopping leptospiruria." In the United States, dihydrostreptomycin is approved for use in swine for the treatment of L. pomona and L. grippotyphosa. The labeled dose is 5 mg/lb of body weight every 12 hours. Treatment should be continued for 3 to 5 days or until the urine is free of leptospira for at least 72 hours as measured by dark field microscopic examination. The withdrawal time is 30 days.

The dosage of dihydrostreptomycin listed in the OIE proposed Appendix is much higher than the dosage recommended by the manufacturer. The 30-day drug withdrawal time was established for dihydrostreptomycin at the labeled dosage and the use of the drug at a higher dosage may result in drug residues. Treatment with sub therapeutic dosages, excessive duration of therapy, or inappropriate use may result in the emergence of dihydrostreptomycin resistant organisms. Additionally, dihydrostreptomycin is a difficult drug to obtain in the United States. A paper published in the American Journal of Veterinary Research titled "Preliminary evaluation of antimicrobial agents for treatment of Leptospira interrogans serovar pomona infection in hamsters and swine" (1996) explores alternative treatment regimens. The article states that

oxytetracycline, erythromycin, and tylosin administered at high dosages for 3 or 5 days are effective for treatment of persistent leptospirosis in pigs. Allowing an antibiotic such as oxytetracycline to be used for Leptospirosis treatment would be much safer and greatly simplify the export process.

Article 3.2.3.5 – Conditions applicable to testing of boars:

Sections 1. a) and 2. a)

General Comment:

Sections 1a and 2a of Article 3.2.3.5 require pre-quarantine and quarantine testing of boars originating from zones that are not free from Brucellosis. Section 3a of article 3.2.3.5 mandates Brucellosis testing of all boars at the collection center if it is located in a non free zone. However, the Appendix does not specify the type of Brucellosis test to be used. Currently, many coutries require the Standard Tube or Standard Plate tests for Brucellosis. These tests often prove problematic and result in a significant number of false positives. The 2000 *Manual of Standards* recommends the buffered Brucella antigen test (Chapter 2.6.2) for international trade. By taking this opportunity to specify the type of Brucellosis test required, future confusion and complications can be avoided. The buffered Brucella antigen test should be the test of choice.

We have no further comments. Thank you for the opportunity to review this Appendix.

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